



## Aruba hosts the International Meeting on Education and Thinking in May

Lydia Emerencia, Director of the University of Aruba announced that the 8<sup>th</sup> International Meeting on Education and Thinking will take place in Aruba from Wednesday, May 2 through Saturday, May 5. This prestigious educational congress was begun nearly twenty years ago in Puerto Rico as a national event, but went international eight years ago, with Aruba chosen as the host island this year.

An intensive program of lectures and workshops in English and Spanish is planned over the four-day period, exploring every aspect of education and intellectual development. Experts from Aruba, Curacao, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Venezuela, Brazil, Trinidad, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Mexico, Russia, Chile, England, Argentina, Holland, and the United States will be attending to make presentations.

The theme of this year's congress is "Systemic frameworks for development-oriented education: Fostering humanity through civic education based on competencies." According to their website, "This theme should be seen as an intense focus on the core of educational activities at the heart of all 'development for humanity'. The conference also aims to reflect, study, suggest and promote theories, research, practices and training that foster an education encouraging human development." The program has been divided into two schedules, pre-conference workshops taking place at both the Radisson and Westin Resorts over Wednesday and Thursday, and then two days of lectures to take place at the Radisson after opening ceremonies on Friday morning with Keynote Speakers Angel Villarini Jusino of Puerto Rico and Lydia Emerencia.

A number of individual topics will be covered under various areas of interest that include "Education in Schools," "Culture & Arts," "Social & General Policy Sector," "Health Education & Promotion," "Communication & Technology," and "Education for Justice and Human Rights." The organizers feel the broad range of subjects merit the attention of not only teachers, but also social workers and any individual interested in the proper development and education of youth, and they encourage the public and parents to attend. Workshops and lectures such as those regarding fostering and encouraging creativity from an early age and its impact on human development will provide excellent pointers for parents in helping their young children develop intellectually, as well as for teachers. Ava Thodé, Director of the Instituto Pedagógico Arubano expressed the hope that the student body of teachers in training would attend.

The University of Puerto Rico is presenting the conference in cooperation with the Instituto Pedagógico Arubano, (Aruba's Teacher's College) the Sindicato di Maestro di Aruba, SIMAR (Teacher's Union,) Intituto di Cultura, Colegio Educacion Profesional Intermedio, (EPI,) Ministry of Justice, and the Aruba Departments of Education and Social Welfare. The cost of the four-day conference, including lunches, an excursion to Arikok National Park and evening social activities is \$200 or 350 Aruban florins. Links to detailed information of topics, presentations and goals of the conference, with schedules of speakers their various presentations is available in both English and Spanish at the website of Aruba's national library: [www.bibliotecanacional.aw](http://www.bibliotecanacional.aw). To register for the conference, organizers in Aruba can be contacted at e-mail address [congreso-edu-aruba2007@uz.aw](mailto:congreso-edu-aruba2007@uz.aw), or contact Jesseline Kelly at telephone number 582-3901 ext 238.